

QUEENS CONTRACT PAYMENT HELD UP IN FRAUD INQUIRY

Unearthing Crooked Contractors Like Hunting Mountain Goats, Says Craig.

In connection with the alleged frauds discovered in the letting of city contracts and their fulfillment with materials not up to specifications, Comptroller Craig said to-day that unearthing the crooked contractors was like hunting mountain goats—he knew they were there, but difficult to find. George S. Clarke, former Acting Borough Engineer of Queens, who severed his connection with the office a few days ago, has been summoned to appear to-day at Mr. Craig's office and testify regarding his knowledge of alleged irregularities.

That Comptroller is withholding payments amounting to \$500,000 on city contracts in Queens. Many applications for payment have been in his office for three months. The total amount involved in city contracts in Queens for sewers, street paving and other improvements is \$1,000,000. Several contractors have been forced to suspend operations for want of funds, when payment was deferred by the Comptroller.

Mr. Craig said to-day that he had evidence to prove that "pre-cast" pipe was substituted for the specified "vitrified" pipe on the Packard Street sewer, between Middleton and Foster avenues. When investigators attempted to get photographs of this substitution, Mr. Craig said that \$25,000 worth of the work was destroyed before the pictures could be made. The material men, said Mr. Craig, purposely bid high on contracts to permit the contractors to get the work. The contractors, in turn, for this favor bought all their materials from the material men.

L. I. Railroad Employee Killed. Pierello Pillelmo, thirty-five years old, of No. 187 Beaufort Avenue, Jamaica, a laborer on the Long Island Railroad, was killed early today by a street-bound electric train. The accident happened on the embankment structure over Fliege Avenue, Winfield.

CITY CLUB APPROVES THE WALKER BILL

Asks Public Hearing on Measure for Municipal Ownership of Utilities.

The City Club, through its President, Nelson B. Spencer, has sent a letter to Senator John Knight, Chairman of the Public Service Committee of the Senate, endorsing the bill introduced last week by Senator James J. Walker as a permissive measure for municipalities desiring to undertake municipal ownership and operation of public utilities. "A great deal of careful study and expert advice," the letter says, "has gone into the preparation of this measure, and its enactment into law, with such amendments as public discussion may show to be necessary, ought to go a long way toward the solution of the public utility crisis that is now present in New York and other cities of the State."

The City Club asks that Senator Knight's committee grant a public hearing on the measure at an early date. The bill is its original form was introduced by Senator Fowler of Jamaica, two years ago. It was passed by the Senate in 1919, but did not come to a vote in the Assembly.

Firemen Killed by Falling Wall. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 31.—Two firemen were killed and ten or twelve more seriously injured when a wall of the building at No. 58 Mathewson Street collapsed during a fire early today. The dead are Lieut. Thomas H. Kelleher and Andrew Cooper.

FIRE OUSTS 25 MEN.

Oriental Hotel Lodgers Sent Out in Haste by Small Blaze.

Twenty-five men were sent out into the rain at 5:30 to-day when fire was discovered in a bathroom on the top floor of the four-story Oriental Hotel and restaurant at No. 21 Rector Street. Employees in the restaurant on the second floor smelled smoke and found the blaze, and the roomers were aroused as a precaution. The fire was in the ceiling and was extinguished with trifling loss.

Cravath in No Danger After Operation in Hospital.

Paul D. Cravath, of No. 270 Park Avenue, senior member of the firm of Cravath & Henderson, attorneys, who was operated on for stones in the bladder at Roosevelt Hospital yesterday morning was reported to-day as resting comfortably and in no danger. It was said he would not be at his office for several weeks.

Six Silk Shirts Lead to Arrests.

Jeanette Murray, a good-looking young woman, twenty, who wore a coon skin coat and had a smile for every one in the courtroom, not excepting Magistrate Douras, and Arthur Binard, both of No. 341 West 121st Street, were to-day held in \$1,500 bail each for examination to-morrow. Six silk shirts were found in their rooms by Detectives Maskill and Kelley, who are seeking to learn whether they are part of the booty taken in the robbery of the B. Solomon store, No. 869 Eighth Avenue.

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Hand-embroidered Initials on fine Quality Pure Linen:

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300 dozen . . . \$10.00 dozen.
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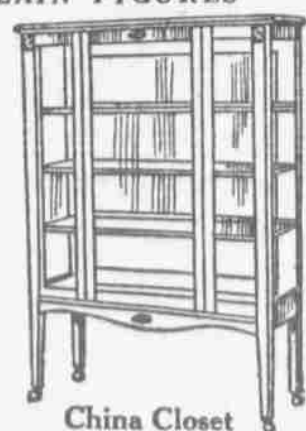
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